

THIRD PARTY MERCHANDISE RETURN SYSTEM**ABSTRACT**

5 A method and implementing system are provided in which
merchants are enabled to designate re-seller return
locations to customers for returned items. In an exemplary
embodiment, a merchant is notified that a customer wishes to
return an item purchased. The merchant then sends the
10 customer a return label for the returned item containing the
address of the re-seller for the merchant. The re-seller
then notifies the merchant when the item has been received
and the merchant then credits the account of the customer
for the returned item. In a second exemplary embodiment,
15 upon receipt of notice from the customer of the return, the
merchant then makes the item available for an auction
purchase to a number of bidders. When a winning bid is known
to the merchant, the return address of the winning bidder is
then sent to the customer for use in returning the purchased
20 item.